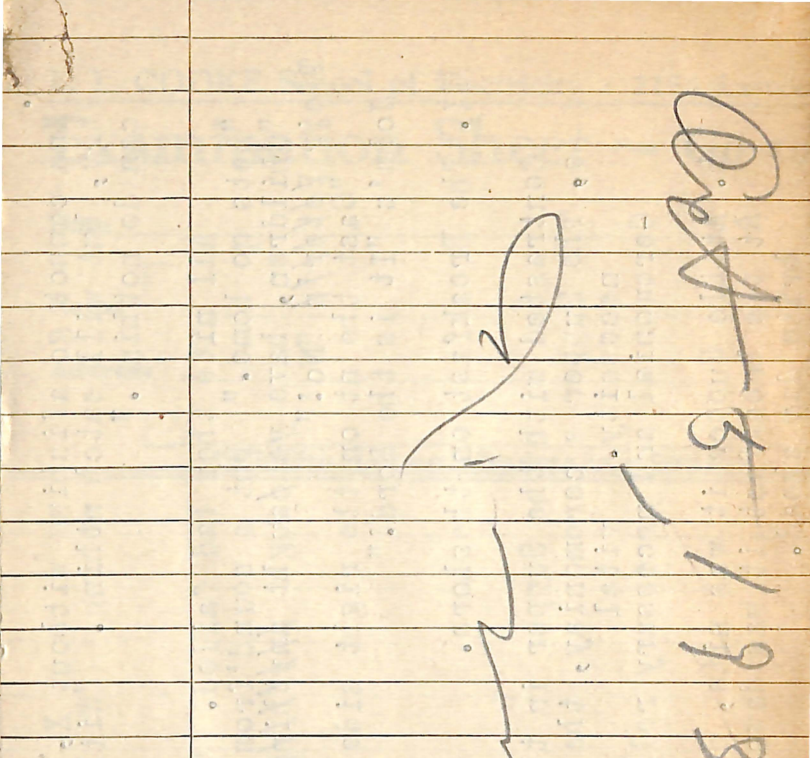

Be Sure Your Correct Name and Address Appears on E

Jn.21:23 "Jesus then cometh and taketh bread and giveth them, and fish likewise."

INTRO. The disciples had gone back to Galilee, back to their work, to their fishing, ~~and farming.~~ In Galilee they waited to see Jesus again. The risen Lord had sent word, "Behold, I go before you into Galilee!"

The Risen Lord had come to them in the Upper Room, at midnight, but when day came he did not appear. Perhaps they had seen but a vision. Perhaps the women were mistaken in what they had seen and heard. Perhaps John had been too credulous. What if it all were an illusion? Now that they were back home again and back to their familier tasks, how different it all seemed!

They tried one spot after another, but all that nite they took nothing! What if they had? Their success would have been disasterous, perhaps. They might have missed their Lord awaiting them on the shore. Sometimes it takes failure and losses to bring us back to God. My own experience.

I. What a failure is ours when we go afishing without Christ!

Even as the disciples trusted to their strong boats, sails oars, nets and esperience, so churches today trust to their strong organizations, splendid equipments and rich heritage; but because so often they leave out the real spirit of Christ they fail.

Other boats that nite on Galilee may have caught much. Other organizations with their attractions seemingly succeed. But the church is different from social, fraternal and patriotic groups. The church too needs to be made attractive, but above all the Church needs the presence and power of of its head, Jesus Christ.

Xns cannot go afishing without X, they may try, but will catch nthing. "Without me ye can do nothing."

All nite they had failed. Then Peter; "Lets go home." But a sound'from the shore! "Children, have ye caught anything to eat?" Their "No!"

"Cast the nt on the right side of the boat." John's "It is the Lord!"

II. The Breakfast on theshore.

Contrasted with the Supper in the Upper Room.

a, The Supper s ceremoniay, the breakfast a necessity. vital
Ceremonial and necessary religion.

b. At the Supper it was nite, dark.
At the breakfast it was dawn, with a whole brite day ahead.
From the Supper they were led to Calvary.
From the breakfast to Ascension.

c. Peter's remembrance of standing by the fire, denying his Lord and hearing the cock crow.
Standing there now by the fire, how chnged
The same Jesus now turns his eyes on a new Peter.
"Lovest thou me?" "Feed my lambs"

Conclusion.

We, too, came again to break bread in Jsus' name. As to Peter our Lord speaks to us, "Do you really love me?"
And we must answer, falteringly because cons - cious of failures,"Thou knowest." And the Master commissions us anew,"Feed my sheep."